28 August 1958

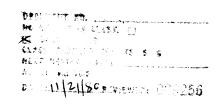
MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. D. J. Clinton, NIS Coordinator

Department of State

SUBJECT:

NIS Maintenance

- 1. In reply to your query, I am setting forth the general views of the Office of Basic Intelligence respecting the NIS maintenance program. The problem is complex but our staff studies of this subject indicate that, upon completion of initial world coverage, it will require at least the present level of effort to keep the published NIS adequately maintained.
- 2. From a quantitative view point, complete NIS world coverage will exceed 5000 sections. At our present annual rate of production, namely 500 sections, it would require at least 10 years to maintain all of these. This would be inadequate for many topics, particularly those on sociological, political, economic, and military matters.
- 3. From a qualitative viewpoint, our experience indicates that revisions of initial sections, to bring them up to NIS standards and to incorporate new intelligence requirements, involve as much time and effort as did the original sections. The large turnover of personnel and replacement with less experienced intelligence analysts, as in the case of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, have tended to reduce production efficiency. We feel that future maintenance could well be performed somewhat more rapidly than original production, providing requirements stabilize and analysts are more carefully selected and briefed before beginning maintenance work.



4. The net effect of the quantitative and qualitative aspects of maintenance is to indicate that annual NIS production should be increased by approximately 25% to provide an adequate maintenance program. More efficient procedures, proper briefing of personnel before they begin maintenance production, and consistent staffing programs from year to year among the producing agencies, should permit the present level of manpower to do that job. I cannot foresee any areas in which a reduction of personnel could be made without adversely affecting the adequacy of the NIS.

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Assistant Director Basic Intelligence

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